



## H.R. 5940 – National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2008

---

### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5940 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bart Gordon (D-TN) on May 1, 2008. The House Committee on Science and Technology agreed to the bill, as amended, by voice vote on May 7, 2008.

H.R. 5940 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 4, 2008.

---

### SUMMARY

H.R. 5940 makes changes to various aspects of the planning and implementation of the 2001 National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). For example, the bill strengthens the environmental, health and safety research component of the NNI and increases emphasis on technology transfer and commercialization of research results from the program.

The bill also requires NNI to develop a strategic plan within twelve months of enactment with detailed objectives and funding targets to guide nanotechnology initiatives. The plan must be updated ever 3 years thereafter. The bill further requires the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office to develop a public database of funded projects.

H.R. 5940 establishes nanotechnology education partnerships to prepare high school students to pursue college education in nanotechnology. The measure requires the NNI to include within the education program activities to support nanotechnology undergraduate education.

The bill also expands the use of nanotechnology facilities by companies to develop products, devices and processes. Finally, H.R. 5940 requires the Director of the Nanotechnology Coordination Office to report to Congress every three years on ways to improve the NNI's management and coordination processes.

---

### BACKGROUND

H.R. 5940 amends the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (P.L. 108-153).

Nanotechnology refers to the applied science of very small (1 to 100 nanometers) devices and structures, including computer hard drives, alternative energy, landmine detectors, ink and water filtration, as well as sunscreens and cosmetics.

Established in 2001, the National Nanotechnology Initiative is a program involving 26 federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Energy and Commerce. The multi-agency program aims to accelerate the discovery, development and deployment of nanometer-scale science and technology.

President Bush's 2006 American Competitiveness Initiative aims to maintain American global economic competitiveness through investment in research and development (R&D) and education.

[National Nanotechnology Initiative website](#)

---

### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 5940 "cost about \$5 million over the 2009-2013 period."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5940](#)



# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE | CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM

1420 LONGWORTH HOB, WASHINGTON, DC 20515

[www.GOP.gov](http://www.GOP.gov)

PHONE 202.225.5107

FAX 202.226.0154

---

## COST

---

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.